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SCHOOLS

# McCall Middle School Civics Project: Winchester Public Pool

May 26, 2025 . 1:00 PM — 2 min read

Swim Winchester products available at a Polar Plunge event earlier this year. FILE PHOTO

*The following was submitted by the following eighth-grade students from the McCall Middle School for their civics project: Alyssa Peou, Audrey Ho Carlos Nouel, and Declan Smyth.*

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The sun was blazing and the temperature was high; it was a perfect day to take a dip in a pool. Maybe you have a pool in your backyard, but for many, that is not the case. So, why not just head to the local pool? Well, because Winchester does not have a public swimming pool.

Winchester has abundant fields and playgrounds, yet lacks a public pool. Whether it be due to a lack of funding or interest, this is an issue. Swimming is not only entertaining, but can bring many health benefits to residents of all ages. There are countless reasons as to why there should be a municipal pool implemented in Winchester that is open for public usage.

How would a pool benefit Winchester residents? Swimming can improve your overall health, both physical and mental. Water exercise can have a lower impact, allowing for people with conditions such as arthritis to exercise safely. Furthermore, the Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC) states that swimming can “decrease anxiety” as well as “decrease depression and improve mood,” highlighting the mental health benefits.

Winchester is diverse, with the ages of residents varying. While everyone is unique, swimming is universal. Having a public pool can bring people together and unite the community. Take a moment to picture this: children making friends, creating lifelong memories and still getting exercise. This is all while their parents relax, rest assured knowing that their kids are under the watchful eye of a proficiently trained lifeguard. Unlike most lakes or ponds, pools have lifeguards, also opening up new job opportunities.

If public pools are so great, why does Winchester still not have one? Some may argue that the pools Winchester already has are sufficient for residents, therefore the implementation of another would be unnecessary. However, these existing pools are not open to the general public

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town. Not everybody is fortunate enough to be able to access these facilities.

Has this topic caught your attention yet? It certainly has for over 2,000 supporters, and 650 donors of Swim Winchester, a local volunteer nonprofit organization working toward the construction of a public pool in Winchester. The organization has already devised an intricate plan for a public swimming pool.

Swim Winchester earned the support of several Winchester Select Board candidates such as Anthea Brady, Rick Welch, and also Karen Bolognese, chair of the School Committee. Evidently, there is no lack of public desire for a public pool.

Though this goal may seem ambitious, every effort counts. No matter how insignificant you may think your contribution is, persistent endeavors will lead to success. You can make a difference by spreading awareness of Swim Winchester, visiting their booth at Town Day, or even donating. Help foster the Winchester community; together, we can transform this dream into reality.

*Winchester News is a non-profit organization supported by our community. If you appreciate having local Winchester news, please donate to support our work, and subscribe to our free weekly newsletter.*

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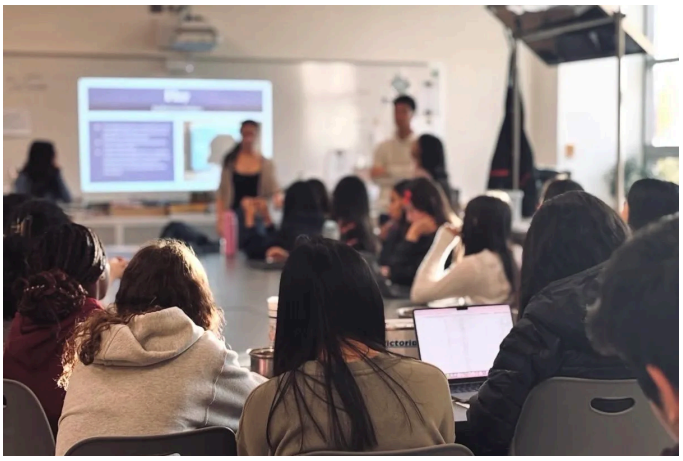
## Winchester High School club hopes art contest will foster interest in Black history, culture

When then-freshman Christie Clark approached Carson Sarpong about becoming a co-founder for her club, Black Student Union, he was hesitant. Three years later, Sarpong is the president, and the club has organized the Black History Project, a contest that invites students to create art about Black history and culture. The

TAVISHI CHATTOPADHYAY | CORRESPONDENT
February 5, 2026



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## Winchester High School's speech and debate team sees a meteoric rise

Winchester's speech and debate team, like most things, began with only a handful of students competing in its inaugural year and receiving little attention from the school. Yet now, what began as a modest club for fun, has grown into something significant and respected by the entire Massachusetts debate

XIYUE ERIC HAN | CORRESPONDENT
January 30, 2026

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## Winchester High School Athletic Department reschedules open house for 8th graders

The following was submitted by the Winchester High School Athletics

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## Winchester High School Black Student Union launches 'Black History Project' cont community showcase

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Department: On Monday, Feb. 2, the Winchester High School Athletics Department will be hosting its rescheduled open house night for 8th graders from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Come to an informational meeting, meet the coaches, learn

January 27, 2026

The following was submitted by the Black Student Union at Winchester High School: The Black Student Union (BSU) at Winchester High School (WHS) is proud to announce the launch of the Black History Project, a contest designed to foster education, research, and creative expression surrounding Black history and culture. The

January 14, 2026

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NEWS

## Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

## 'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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## Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

NEWS

## Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

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